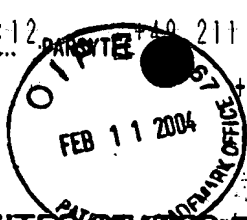


E-41482



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applic. No. : 10/030,238
Applicant : Steffen Burkhardt et al.
Filed : December 31, 2001
Art Unit : 2121.0
Examiner : Elliot L. Frank

Confirmation No: 8983

Docket No. : E-41482
Customer No.: 24131

RECEIVED

FEB 17 2004

Technology Center 2100

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131

We, Steffen Burkhardt and Karl Schäfer, joint inventors of the invention described and claimed in the instant application hereby declare that:

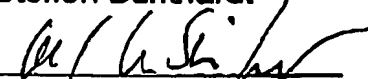
The invention described and claimed in the above-identified application was made prior to June 29, 1999.

We orally reported the invention to our employer at least as early as May 1, 1999; the first disclosure was followed by extensive discussions concerning the subject matter with our patent attorney during the month of May 1999; a patent application draft was finalized on June 22, 1999 and the German priority application was filed on June 30, 1999. The enclosed drawing corresponds to the drawing figure attached to the description of June 22, 1999.

The undersigned declares that all statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.


Steffen Burkhardt

21.01.04
Date


Karl Schäfer

05.02.2004
Date

1/1

